

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Page 47 ~ Referral/Direct - Serial 58/OAG;

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\$250,000 Suit Threatened Over Seizure of Files

SAN DIEGO — (AP) — The state's seizure of files on alleged subversive activities in Southern California sparked accusations and threat of a lawsuit today.

Retired Maj. Gen. George W. Fisher demanded return of the files. He said they are privately owned and have been used for the state's benefit. He threatened to sue the state of California for \$250,000 if they aren't returned.

Maj. Gen. Roderic L. Hill, the adjutant general, personally took the files from a San Diego armory Tuesday. He contended they are state property and said they won't be returned.

The files were sealed and taken to the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification in Sacramento.

Fisher, president of the San Diego Research Library which

compiled the files, said that since 1928 information on 150,000 to 200,000 individuals and organizations has been gathered — not all of a subversive nature.

He said Gov. Edmund G. Brown and Hill know the files don't belong to the state.

"They tried to do the same thing six months ago," Fisher said. "It would seem that somebody is afraid the records in there are detrimental to him."

Hill called the removal a "protective move." He added: "We had information there had been leaks from the files. I know of no specific instance of compromise but it was primarily a matter of concern that there would be compromise."

"It had been alleged these files were being used by un-

authorized persons for purposes not in the best interests of the state."

The San Diego Research Library is an independent anti-Communist organization. Fisher described himself as "an anti-Communist fighter for at least 30 years, dating back to the early 1930s." He said the files were started in 1928 by Maj. Gen. Ralph Van Deman, a former Army intelligence officer. Van Deman died in 1952. Fisher said the information came from official government and congressional reports, ex-Communists, newspaper articles and reports from volunteer informants.

OAKLAND TRIBUNE

Oakland, California

Date: 2-16-62

RED STREAK

Edition:

City Editor: STEVE STILL

Assistant Publisher and

Editor: WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND

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difford

[Handwritten signature]

66-3182-26

'Leak' From Armory

Legislator Says He Was Target Of Secret Files

By George Draper

State Senator Hugo Fisher of San Diego charged yesterday that an attempt was made to block his election in 1958 with information allegedly "leaked" from the private political files seized in San Diego's National Guard Armory.

Fisher, a Democrat, said the secret file information turned up at a campaign gathering in the hands of his opponent, State Senator Fred H. Kraft, a Republican and the incumbent at the time.

The secret private files, which were kept rent-free in the armory, are now in the possession of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.

They purportedly contain 200,000 names of alleged left-wing subversives collected by a private, nonprofit organization known as the San Diego Research Library.

Major General Roderic L. Hill, chief of the State of California's Military Department, ordered the files confiscated because "they were in a public building and yet not under our surveillance."

Senator Fisher said he considered the Research Library's files actually State property and that the seizure was in order.

"I don't think confidential files of the State should be used for private political purposes," he said.

The Senator was referring to an incident in his 1958

*Re General
Van Deman
files
12-1661-4*

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3-3-88

SP8 BTJ/AL

*ASAC
Dem. Ralph H. Van Deman
66-3182*

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
San Francisco, California
Date: 2-17-62

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66-3182-27

'Red' Files ---Charge by Senator

From Page 1

campaign in which he defeated the incumbent, Kraft.

POLITICS

"At one meeting," he said, "Kraft waved what purported to be a photostatic copy of my FBI file.

"Someone in the audience questioned him about the document and wanted to know how he obtained it.

"Kraft then gave ground and admitted the document was actually a resume of tidbits out of the General Van Deman file."

Major General Ralph Van Deman, who died in 1952, started the secret file which was later taken over by the San Diego Research Library.)

"I would consider the use of files of this order by politicians to be highly meretricious," Senator Fisher added.

'DOCUMENT'

Reached by telephone at his San Diego home, former Senator Kraft said he did wave a photostatic copy of "some document" at the meeting referred to by Senator Fisher.

"But I did not identify the document as being from the General Van Deman file or from the FBI," he said.

Senator Kraft refused on "advice of my attorneys" to reveal the source of the mysterious document other than to say "it was a reliable source."

"At that same meeting," said Senator Kraft, "I accused Senator Fisher of being a member of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"I said it was listed as a Communist organization by the Department of Justice."

The American Civil Liberties Union has never been listed as a subversive organization by the Department of Justice.

Kraft was asked whether he was perhaps referring to the defunct Civil Rights Congress, which was on the Attorney General's list.

FRIEND

But he insisted it was the American Civil Liberties Union that he had in mind.

Kraft said he had never seen the General Van Deman file but "I happened to be a personal friend of the general."

The ex-Senator said he had also been friends "for many, many years" with Major General George Fisher, president of the San Diego Research Library, and Colonel Frank Forward, the secret file organization's vice president.

Kraft described General Fisher, a retired National Guard officer, and Colonel Forward, a retired National Guard Reserve officer, as "outstanding citizens."

FILES

The General Van Deman files, nine large cases in all, had originally been given space in the San Diego Armory by former Adjutant General Earle M. Jones.

Colonel Forward, San Diego businessman, took over the files after General Van Deman's death in his dual capacity as chief of a National Guard Reserve counter-intelligence detachment and as vice president of the Research Library.

When Forward retired from the reserve at the age of 70 last December, the counter-intelligence detachment went out of business but the Research Library stayed on at the armory to maintain the private files.

General Fisher told The Chronicle the free armory office facilities could be justified on the grounds the Research Library checked on potential political appointees for the Governor.



SENATOR FISHER
"Resume of tidbits"



FRED H. KRAFT
"A reliable source"



A. P. Wirephoto

MAJ. GEN. FISHER
Research library president

Showdown On Armory Red Files

The State and a private anti-Communist organization headed for a showdown yesterday over the disputed ownership of secret records hauled away from the organization's rent-free office in the San Diego National Guard Armory.

Maj. Gen. Roderic Hill, commander of the State National Guard, said the confiscated records will stay locked up in the office of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation in Sacramento.

George Fisher, retired National Guard major general and president of the San Diego Research Library which maintained the files, said they won't and that he will get them back by court order.

9 FILING CASES

The records consist of nine filing cases and a one-ton safe containing secret information on between 150,000 and 200,000 individuals and organizations.

"They had better not open them," Fisher declared after learning a National Guard

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66-372-28

Showdown In Row Over Armory Files

(Continued from Page 1)

truck had transported the records to Sacramento.

"We don't intend to," said Deputy Assistant Attorney General Aldo Smith in San Francisco.

"I have so advised General Hill," Smith disclosed, "because if they are opened at this point it could lead to accusations that some records had been removed."

HIS PRIVILEGE

Smith said it was General Fisher's privilege to go into court over the seized records, but insisted the State can prove ownership as Attorney General Stanley Mosk ruled recently.

Smith said the Attorney General's only role in the dispute was to agree to receive and store the records and fight for their retention by the State, if and when Fisher sues to get them back.

General Fisher conceded the National Guard could have ordered his research library on subversive individuals and organizations out of the Armory at any time.

NO EXPLANATION

"But they didn't do this," he said. "They just came and took the records away and no State or military official has given me a word of explanation."

"Some of us have put in 30 years of work on the files. They are private property and the National Guard knows it. We most certainly are going to get them back."

It was General Hill who ordered confiscation of the Red hunting library's Armory records after State Senator Hugo Fisher of San Diego charged information from the files was used against him in the 1958 election.

USED IN ELECTION

The senator said the information consisted of a document displayed by his election opponent at a political meeting. The opponent denied it, but admitted General Fisher was a long-time friend.

Although Governor Edmund G. Brown's office has used the library in checking the references of prospective State appointees, the Governor has declined comment on the situation so far.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE ~~(100-444444)~~ 11

DATE: 2/19/62

FROM : SAC PRICE

SUBJECT: ~~CALIFORNIA COMMITTEE TO COMBAT
COMMUNISM~~

At 4:07 P.M. ARTHUR L. ALARCON, Executive Clemency and Extradition Secretary for the Governor, who works very closely with Attorney General STANLEY MOSK, called me from Sacramento. He said he wanted to bring to my attention the fact that some years ago some subversive files had been collected in San Diego. He said some of the material had been turned over to the Counterintelligence Corps but that other files were maintained in a State armory in San Diego. He emphasized that these were State files in a State armory maintained by State workers by State typewriters. He said for some unexplained reason, however, information from these files had been furnished to private individuals in San Diego. ALARCON said he didn't feel this should have been done but it had been done. Now an old Colonel who was retired and worked with the State Adjutant General had moved in and taken these files to protect them. The files were then moved to CII headquarters where they are being maintained in a locked condition in Sacramento. ALARCON said that he wanted me to know that an offer was being made to the FBI in Washington to take over these files. He said that Attorney General MOSK had talked to Mr. DE LOACH of the FBI and Mr. DE LOACH had indicated an interest in the files but said he would check with the SACs in California first. I then told ALARCON that I appreciated immensely his informing me of this development but made inquiry of him as to whether it wasn't true, as indicated in the newspapers, that certain private parties had threatened to bring suit against the State officials, claiming that they had illegally and improperly seized private files. ALARCON said there had been talk of this but that, to his knowledge, no suits had actually been filed as yet but if they were filed the private parties would not have a legal leg to stand on. I told ALARCON I was sure the FBI should not be injected into the middle of any controversy that might arise over the ownership and status of these files but that, in any case, I certainly would take no action whatsoever unless instructed to do so by my headquarters in Washington. He said he understood this but just wanted me to be on notice as to what was going on.

3-3-88 SP8 BTJ/ccl
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66-3182-29

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FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

FILE 100-49744)

I immediately called Assistant Director DE LOACH in Washington, informed him of ALARCON's call, and ascertained that DE LOACH has the background on the situation from San Diego's airtel and also that State Attorney General MOSK had been in to see DE LOACH today. DE LOACH said he talked to him at some length about crime statistics and their maintenance and MOSK said that he had been misinformed and said that he intended to go back to Sacramento and straighten some things out. MOSK said that the seized files were being offered to the FBI. DE LOACH said he did not think we should accept these files under the existing circumstances but would bring the matter to Mr. HOOVER's attention. DE LOACH said that he has written a memo to the Director recommending that we do not touch these files. I told DE LOACH I contemplated no action and he said this was right. He said if any press inquiries were received I should merely state this was a State matter and the FBI was not involved.

At 4:35 P.M. I received a call from ASAC ONSGARD at Los Angeles who said he wanted me to know that he had been talking to SIMON in Washington and SIMON mentioned the fact that MOSK had been in to see DE LOACH and the question of the taking of these files had come up and SIMON said that his office was to take no action. I briefed ONSGARD on my conversation with ALARCON and DE LOACH.

Brown Still Silent About Secret Files

From Our Correspondent
Sacramento

Governor Edmund G. Brown's role in the anti-subversive files case developed into something of a political mystery yesterday.

For the fourth straight day since seizure of the red-hunting San Diego Research Library's files from a State-operated National Guard Armory, the Governor's office curtly offered "no comment" on the case.

Major General Roderic L. Hill, chief of the State's Military Department, ordered nine filing cabinets and a one-ton safe, purportedly containing secret information on thousands of individuals and organizations, seized at the San Diego Armory last week.

"The National Guard is a

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66-3182-30

'Secret Files: Governor Still Silent

From Page 1

fighting outfit, not a snooping outfit," the general stated, "I'm putting a stop to this sort of thing."

He turned the files over to the State's Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, contending that they were State property.

The San Diego Research Library had, he said, been given free space and facilities at the Amory for the last 15 years.

CONTROVERSY

The seizure touched off a heated controversy in which State Senator Hugo Fisher (Dein-San Diego) charged that the files contained "a collection of gossip by one neighbor against another neighbor."

Major General George Fisher, retired National Guardsman and head of the Research Library, announced he intended to file suit against the State to have both the files and the safe returned to the private anti-Communist organization.

And yesterday it was learned that the State may have to go to court to get into the seized files, because officials of the San Diego organization refuse to give either keys or combinations to State authorities.

"We could pry the files

open," said General Hill, "but it might lead to legal complications."

But throughout Governor Brown has remained silent on the whole matter.

He refused to comment on the propriety of the private subversive-hunting organization having free space in a National Guard Armory.

'SCREENED'

A spokesman in Brown's office, did reveal that members of the Governor's staff, including his chief liaison officer, Major Harold Hjelm, frequently consulted the San Diego Research Library files to screen political appointees.

Meanwhile, General Hill announced that the purpose of seizing the files was "to get them out of the hands of the amateurs, and into the CII as soon as possible."

2/17/62

A I R T E L

A I R M A I L

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (66-1005)

SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

4/8/86
3-88 SP8 BTJ/COL
SP6 Byside

As the Bureau will note from previous correspondence in its files concerning the above captioned organization, the San Diego Research Library is an outgrowth of the old "General VAN DEMAN" files and have been maintained in San Diego for a number of years at the National Guard Armory in San Diego in the custody of Major General GEORGE FISHER, U. S. National Guard (retired). A large portion of the "General VAN DEMAN" files are presently maintained at Fort Holabird, Maryland, in the custody of the U. S. Army. The files maintained by the San Diego Central Research Library have been utilized as a source of "public source" data by many of the privately owned firms in San Diego as well as by a number of state agencies. The San Diego Office of the FBI has had no occasion for many years to utilize data in these files because they are not entirely factual in nature, contain much unsubstantiated and unverified data, and better material is available through our own sources.

Within the past few days, what appears to be a growing political battle has arisen concerning the files of the San Diego Central Research Library.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are one copy each of newspaper clippings from the following newspapers which set forth in detail information concerning this controversy:

San Diego Union Home Edition, 2/15/62

Valley News, El Cajon, California, 2/16/62

San Diego Union Home Edition, 2/17/62

3 - Bureau
1 - San Diego

TJB:sja
(4)

see ser. 32

66-3182-31

SD 65-1003

As the Bureau will note from the enclosed clippings, the files maintained by the San Diego Central Research Library were seized by state representatives on 2/14/62 on the instructions of Major General RODRICK HILL, the State Adjutant General, who was apparently acting on orders of Governor PAT BROWN. It appears that Governor BROWN has been quite irked by derogatory data contained in the files of the San Diego Central Research Library, and disseminated from it, concerning certain unnamed political appointees of Governor BROWN. The seizure of the files by the State Adjutant General would appear to be for the purpose of eliminating the data in these files as a possible source of political embarrassment to Governor BROWN.

As the Bureau will note from the enclosed articles, threats have been made by various politicians and other individuals to have a complete investigation made of the seizure of these files of the San Diego Central Research Library by state representatives, which investigation would be presumably conducted by the state legislature or an appropriate committee thereof. The seizure of the files, as will be noted from the enclosed articles was without any warning whatsoever and this contemplated action on the part of the Adjutant General was a complete surprise to General FISHER and his representatives; in fact, they apparently were not even notified that the files were being seized, and had no knowledge of it until it was an accomplished fact. The files have been transported from San Diego to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification of the State Department of Justice, Sacramento, California, and no information has yet been received or publicized as to what further disposition will be made of the data in these files by the State of California.

The San Diego Office of the FBI, naturally, intends to take no part whatever in the controversy and will make absolutely no comment concerning it inasmuch as this appears to be solely a state matter. This information and the enclosed newspaper articles are being submitted to the Bureau, however, for information, in the event any inquiry concerning the matter should be directed to the Bureau.

8-19-62

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM:

SAC, SAN DIEGO (66-1005)

66-3182-8,17 (1/52) (6 mbr)
SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY
RESEARCH (ORIGIN UNKNOWN)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 4/8/86 BY SP8 BTJ/col
3-3-88

Index

Reairtel from San Diego to Bureau dated 2-17-62,
captioned as above.

The correct name of this library is as set out in the
caption.

It is noted that reairtel incorrectly refers to the name
of the library as "SAN DIEGO CENTRAL RESEARCH LIBRARY"
in the following places;

Page 1

Paragraph 1, line 10
Paragraph 2, line 3

Page 2

Paragraph 1, lines 2 and 8
Paragraph 2, line 4.

The Bureau is requested to correct its copies of reairtel
by deleting the word "Central" in the above-listed spots.

For the information of San Francisco, there is enclosed
one copy of reairtel from San Diego to Bureau.

For the additional information of the Bureau and San
Francisco, on Saturday, 2-17-62, representatives of the
State, acting on the instructions of Major General ROBERTICK

- 1 - Bureau - AIR MAIL
 - 1 - San Francisco (Enclosure - 1) - AIR MAIL
 - 1 - SD
- TED:jee

Re *GENERAL VAN DEEMAN*
see ser 31
FILE

66-3182-32

SD 66-1005 .

HILL, the Adjutant General of the State National Guard, removed from the San Diego Research Library a locked safe which was reported to contain additional files, records, and documents of the Library, and these are to be transferred to the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, State Department of Justice, Sacramento, California, where the previously seized files are presently maintained.

Brown Still Silent

Secret Files 'Cost Taxpayers'

Major General Roderic L. Hill, chief of the California State military department, said yesterday a private anti-Communist file kept in a San Diego National Guard armory cost the taxpayers "thousands of dollars."

The files, and a one-ton safe were seized by General Hill last week on the grounds they were really State property.

When Hill seized the files he said he wished to put a armory space by private interests so the space could be used for regular guard activities.

Governor Edmund G. Brown, meanwhile, maintained his silence on the files. security checks.

The file were kept in recent years by a private organization known as the San Diego Research Library.

President of the Research Library is Major General George Fisher, a retired National Guard officer from San Diego.

He said information in the files was made available to

the governor's office for security checks.

Major General Harold Hjelm, the governor's chief liaison officer, told The Chronicle he has made eight to ten security checks a month for several years with the San Diego Research Library.

None of the checks revealed any substantial information that could not be found in security files kept by public agencies, Hjelm said.

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Chapman

66-2182-33

Make Public Seized Files, Shell Urges

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—Assemblyman Joseph Shell said today that contents of files and a safe seized by State officials from the San Diego National Guard Armory should be made public immediately.

Shell said the files may contain information about highly placed public officials.

The San Diego Research Library, which has been compiling information about alleged subversive activities, claims the files.

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66-3182-34

Anti-Subversive Data

Brown Backs Seizure Of Files '100 Per Cent'

SUNNYVALE, Feb. 21.—Governor Edmund G. Brown today broke his five-day silence on the seizure of anti-subversive files from the San Diego National Guard armory.

Brown said flatly: "I approve very much. I stand behind General Hill 100 per cent."

He referred to Maj. Gen. Roderic L. Hill, chief of the State's Military Department, who last week ordered nine filing cabinets and a one-ton safe, reportedly containing secret information on thousands of individuals and organizations, seized from the armory and sent to the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.

Brown, who met with newsmen prior to addressing the Eighth Annual Keynote Series Luncheon of the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce, said: "I haven't received a report (on the seizure) yet, but

The California Poll
appears on Page 34.

I expect one by the end of the week."

Asked if he knew what the files, belonging to a nonprofit organization known as the San Diego Research Library, were doing in the armory, the Governor replied:

"No. I don't know what they were doing there."

Asked about his chief liaison officer, Maj. Gen.

Harold Hjelm, who, it was reported, frequently consulted the Research Library files, Brown said:

"General Hjelm has been used by other Governors to investigate people through files. . . . I have continued to use him."

Brown, who was in Santa Clara County as part of his "Report to the People" tour, left after attending two San Jose receptions for a swing through the San Joaquin Valley.

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ABO

66-3182-35

Brown Backs Seizure of Secret Files

By George Draper

Governor Edmund G. Brown said yesterday he approves of the seizure of private anti-Communist files from the California National Guard armory in San Diego.

At the same time, the Governor said he had permitted his chief liaison officer, Brigadier General Harold Hjelm, to use the controversial files in making security checks.

The Governor's remarks were made at a Sunnyvale press conference. They were the first comments he has made on the subject since the files were seized nearly ten days ago.

The nine filing cases containing names of 200,000 persons were kept in the big San Diego armory rent-free, by a private, non-profit organization known as the San Diego

Files: Brown OKs Seizure

From Page 1

Research Library, which labeled them "suspected subversives."

SEIZURE

The filing cases, together with a one-ton safe belonging to the National Guard but used by the Research Library, were seized by Major General Roderic L. Hill, chief of the California State Military Department.

Hill took the position that the files are really State property because members of the National Guard Reserve helped compile them.

The adjutant general further argued that a private organization such as the Research Library has no business receiving free office facilities in a National Guard armory.

APPROVAL

"Do you approve of what General Hill did in seizing the files?" Governor Brown was asked by reporters.

"Yes, I do," the Governor replied, "but I have not yet received a report from him on the matter."

Asked what the private organization's files were doing in a State armory, Brown answered:

"I have no idea what they were doing there."

The Governor was then asked about his chief liaison officer, Brigadier General Hjelm, using the private files for security checks on potential appointees.

"I do know that other Governors used General Hjelm for that purpose and I continued to use him," Brown replied.

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66-3172-36

Army Data In Seized Secret File

Safe in Guard HQ Opened

Examiner Capitol Bureau

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 26.

Files retrieved from the custody of a private anti-Communist organization in San Diego contained of-

ficial and confidential National Guard personnel records in addition to data on alleged subversive activity by civilians, State Adjutant General Roderic L. Hill said today.

He emphasized that the military records do not relate to subversive activity and include such things as personal histories of guardsmen.

These, said General Hill, were mixed in with reports of alleged Communist activity by civilians he did not identify and information on "purely innocent, God-fearing people" likewise having no connection with the National Guard.

SAFE OPENED

Some of the material was found in a 1,300 pound safe removed from the National Guard armory at San Diego over the last weekend. The safe had been used by the San Diego Research Library, an unofficial organization occu-

pying rent-free space in the armory.

Three locked filing cabinets, which the Research Library has filed suit to recover, were removed earlier. General Hill said these have not yet been opened but with the safe will be retained by the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation here.

Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon meanwhile suggested that a legislative committee should investigate seizure of the files. Nixon, speaking to San Francisco State College students, said he believes a private organization has every right to compile information on Communist activities.

'SECRET' STAMP

General Hill said the safe contained folders stamped "Secret" but that the contents of these do not relate to National Guard personnel. He did not elaborate.

"I suspect," he said, "the folders were stamped 'Secret' by George Fisher (a retired National Guard major general who is president of the Research Library)."

In a report to Governor Edmund G. Brown, Hill described the locked filing cabinets as "intelligence files" compiled by the National Guard as part of its intelligence mission.

He said he ordered the files seized when informed that State Senator Hugo Fisher of San Diego had received complaints that information in files was being made available to unauthorized persons.

"Such 'intelligence files,'" he concluded, "must be in the hands of responsible State officials for security reasons."

*Re: Personal
Van Jones*

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Military Secrets in Armory Files

By Jackson Doyle
Chronicle Correspondent
Sacramento

A safe in the San Diego National Guard Armory, which was used by a private anti-Communist group, contained confidential military intelligence material, The Chronicle, learned yesterday.

The Chronicle further learned that the contents included documentary material from official U.S. Army sources, some of it bearing an official-appearing "secret" stamp.

Major General Roderic L. Hill, State Adjutant General, said these military documents "could not legally have come into the possession of the San Diego Research Library," the private anti-Red outfit.

In addition to the military intelligence, the safe contained "confidential" documents.

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Anti-Red Files

Military Secrets Discovered

From Page 1

siers on private citizens of California.

One folder, labeled "Labor Problems," held information on unions and their activities in various San Diego industries.

General Hill ordered the safe and several filing cabinets seized after he learned the private organization was using office space rent-free in the armory.

They were transferred to the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation here on Saturday.

The one-ton safe was cracked by the military over the weekend and the contents turned over to the CII.

Harold Gillett, CII chief, said the safe contained several cardboard boxes of materials, which are now being inventoried in a locked room in the CII's windowless headquarters by Colonel Robert L. Quick, inspector-general of the California National Guard.

TRANSFER

What triggered the decision to transfer the files to Sacramento also became known yesterday in a report by General Hill to Governor Edmund G. Brown.

It was a phone call early this month by State Senator Hugo Fisher of San Diego to the Governor's executive secretary, Charles A. O'Brien, complaining that unauthorized persons had access to the National Guard's files.

O'Brien in turn phoned General Hill and asked him to investigate. General Hill did, and ordered the files brought to Sacramento.

NO RENT

Governor Brown, after reading his report on the affair, told the General he had "exercised good judgment."

Fisher, who charged that some material from the files had been used against him in a Senate campaign four years ago, phoned O'Brien February 9.

Hill reported to Brown in part as follows:

"The files were compiled over a period of many years by various units of the California National Guard as part of its intelligence mission.

"In 1956, the files were last placed under the supervision of Colonel Frank Forward as commander of the counter-intelligence corps of

the California National Guard Reserve.

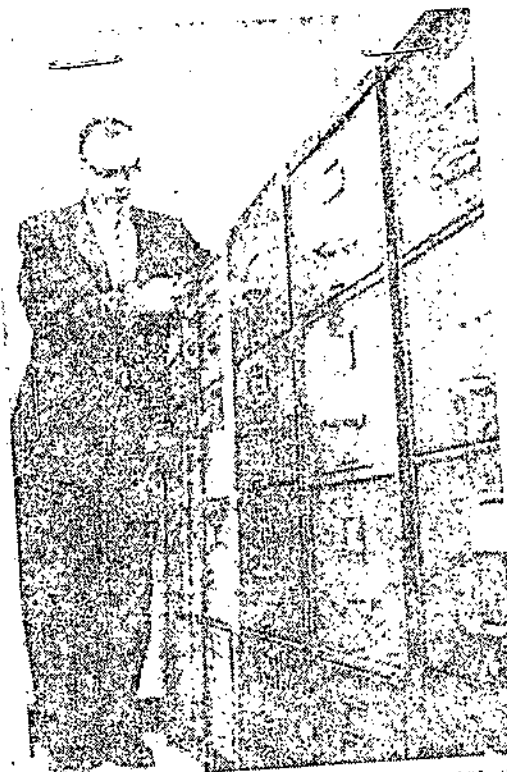
"On 23 December 1961, Colonel Forward reached mandatory retirement age under State law. Upon his retirement, the counter-intelligence corps of the CNGR was inactivated, effective 31 December 1961 . . .

"My investigation disclosed that no State official was immediately responsible for security of the files. Because the National Guard no longer performs a counter-intelligence mission, I asked the CII to take custody of the files and the CII agreed to do so.

TRANSFER

"I further decided to supervise the transfer personally and went to San Diego on 13 February for that purpose.

"It is my belief that the nature of these files and the attendant publicity have obscured the fundamental fact that such intelligence files must be in the hands of responsible State officials for security reasons and that this has been accomplished by the transfer."



HAROLD GILLETT, chief of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, checks lock on one of the files seized from the San Diego National Guard Armory and locked up in the CII offices in Sacramento. (AP Photofax)

General Threatens To Sue State Over Seized Secret Files

A retired major general threatened Thursday to sue the State of California for \$250,000 because the state seized files dealing with dis-
subversive activities from an armory in San Diego. Retired Maj. Gen. George Fisher said in San Diego they were the private files of the "San Diego Research Center" which compiled them. He said he would sue if they aren't returned.

Maj. Gen. Roderic L. Hill, the state adjutant general who personally seized them Tuesday with the aid of California Highway Patrol officers, said the files were state property and wouldn't be returned.
The files were sealed and sent to the State Bureau of Criminal

CHARGES POLITICS

"The whole thing is political in my estimation," Fisher said of the seizure. He added that Governor Brown and Hill know the files don't belong to the state, and never did.
"They tried to do the same thing six months ago. It would seem that somebody is afraid the records in there are detrimental to him."

Fisher said the files cover subversive activities in the San Diego area since 1928, but not all organizations or persons listed in the files are subversive.

Fisher said he doubted Brown or Hill would make the records public, but "if they want to stick their necks out and render themselves liable to slander and libel suits, that's up to them."

GOOD PURPOSE

Fisher said "we have used the files to good purpose for the state. We have screened individuals nominated for state positions and supplied the information" to former Governor Warren, now chief.
(Please see P 4, Col. 1)

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General Threatens To Sue Over Files

(Continued from Page 1)

justice of the United States, former Governor Knight, and Brown. Brown's office confirmed that the center was "one of many sources used by the governor's staff in checking references of prospective appointees."

Fisher said the research center had legal authority to use the armory room rent-free.

BACKED BY JONES

His claim was backed by Maj. Gen. Earle M. Jones, Hill's predecessor as commander of the California National Guard.

Jones said he had authorized the late Maj. Gen. Ralph H. Van Deman, a military intelligence authority, to keep secret files in the armory.

Jones said Van Deman had "needed a place to work in secret on his material about subversive activities."

Hill denied such legal authority, and said the room was assigned to the National Guard reserve, which

formerly conducted intelligence operations.

Hill said such operations are no longer a function of the guard. He said that National Guard personnel helped compile the files and the state had housed them.

Fisher said he helped when Van Deman started compiling the files in 1928.

He said members of the San Diego Research Center financed the work. He would not name the members. He said his staff includes a paid secretary and three volunteers. One is Mrs. Fisher. He would not name the others.

FILES LOCKED

Meanwhile the files remain under lock and key at the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (CII).

George H. Brereton, deputy director of the Justice Department of which the CII is a part, remarked

"There seems to be so much confusion about whose files are what that we'll delay a while and find out what the situation is."

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Seized Files Had Military Data: Brown

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 27 (AP) — Gov. Brown today said he has received a confidential report that a safe seized from the San Diego National Guard Armory contains military information.

The governor, at his news conference, said the information would not be released. He renewed his backing of the seizure by Maj. Gen. Roderic Hill, state adjutant general, who made the report.

"The matter is in the courts," Brown said.

"I absolutely know from my conversation with the adjutant general that some of the things in the files should never have been in the hands of anyone but the National Guard itself."

BROWN SAID the files also contain information on alleged subversive activities by labor unions and other nonmilitary groups and individuals. The files were compiled by the San Diego Research Library, which is going to get them back.

Hill, accompanied by California Highway Patrolmen, took custody of the files on Feb. 13 and transported them to the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification in Sacramento.

A safe containing the military information referred to by Brown was seized later.

HILL HAS maintained that the files were compiled with state help, kept on state property and are state property. He said they belong with the CII, however, and not the National Guard.

Brown said he did not know if national security was involved, but added that he would not release the material.

He said the material "has absolutely nothing to do with any private nonprofit organization."

"Private people were using public files," he said.

THE GOVERNOR confirmed that he, as well as former Govs. Warren and Knight, have received information on prospective appointees from the National Guard.

In his report, Hill said the files were compiled over the years by the California National Guard as part of its intelligence mission.

Hill said they had been under the supervision of the Counter-Intelligence Corps of the guard reserve, which was deactivated last Dec. 31.

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State Senate Probe Of the 'Secret' Files

Examiner Capitol Bureau

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 27.—

The State Senate today scheduled an inquiry into the origin and ownership of a truckload of "secret" records removed from a San Diego National Guard Armory.

Senator Hugh M. Burns of Fresno, Democratic president pro tempore of the Senate, asked Senator Edwin J. Regan of Weaverville, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to conduct the inquiry.

Regan said he would present the matter to the judiciary committee Wednesday, and felt certain the membership would follow through.

"I think the Judiciary Committee would be very much interested in the history of these records," Regan said of the files, which now are in the custody of the State Department of Justice. "If they belong to the State, then by what authority were they collected, at whose direction and

for what purpose?

"We obviously would want to know what use has been made of the files.

"We would anticipate giving the Legislature a report before it adjourns the March budget session."

The records were contained in six steel file cabinets, two padlocked wooden cabinets and a 1,300 pound steel safe.

Their transfer here was personally supervised by Maj. Gen. Roderic L. Hill, adjutant general of the California National Guard.

Hill said he had suspected they included information on subversive activities by private citizens as well as National Guard personnel. He felt the armory was not a proper repository.

The safe was opened by a locksmith in the presence of five State employees. Preliminary examination by Col. Robert Quick, an investigator from Hill's office, indicated the records dealt with sub-

versive connections of private citizens, interspersed with military personnel details.

The Examiner learned from another source that the files contained copies of publications, including The People's World—West Coast Communist organ — and excerpts from other publications. These were indexed and cross-indexed.

Hill said the military records were purely informational, and as such could be considered official and confidential. He described other records as the "dumping grounds for lots and lots of information on people who had nothing to do with the guard whatsoever."

Governor Edmund G. Brown told his news conference today:

"I think the adjutant general acted properly in this matter, the matter is in the hands of the courts and I know from my conversation with the adjutant general that

some of the things—not all of them — should never have been in anybody's hands except the proper National Guard authorities."

A private San Diego anti-Communist research organization, headed by retired Maj. Gen. George W. Fisher, has sued the State for recovery of the files, claiming they are private property. They ask \$250,000 in lieu of recovery.

Secret Files - Brown Accused of 'Witch Hunt'

By George Draper

Governor Edmund G. Brown was accused yesterday of "trying to plan a witch hunt" by seizing a private organization's anti-Communist files from a San Diego armory.

The charge was made by Attorney Grandall Condra of San Diego, who represents the San Diego Research Library.

The Research Library, headed by retired Major General George Fisher, kept the files rent-free in the main San Diego National Guard armory until they were seized and shipped to Sacramento two weeks ago.

"The seizure was political," Condra declared yesterday, "and everything that's been done with the files and safe since then was political."

The nine filing cases, containing records on 200,000 Californians, and the contents of a one-ton safe used by the Research Library are now in the custody of the State Department of Justice.

It was revealed Tuesday that the safe contained confidential and secret military information, plus six special folders marked "Labor Problems."

State Senator Hugh M. Burns (Dem-Fresno) indicated yesterday he will ask

the Senate judiciary committee headed by Senator Edwin J. Regan (Dem-Weaverville) to investigate the secret files.

Attorney Condra, who filed a \$250,000 suit against Governor Brown and others for recovery of the files, said he doubted secret military information was in the safe.

The Research Library contends the files are private property while the State claims they represent material gathered in large part by—and maintained by—the State.

Condra said the presence of folders marked "Labor Problems" does not raise the

inference that the Research Library was engaged in "labor spying."

"It might be that the labor problems were brought about due to activities of the Communist Party," the attorney said.

The growing controversy over the fate of the secret files also drew fire from State Senator Hugh Fisher (Dem-San Diego).

Fisher said certain retired National Guard personnel had informed him that the files were used by "private persons for other than governmental purposes."

"More particularly," the Senator declared, "the files were used for the political, social and economic harassment of persons not in the good graces of those who had access to the files."

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Governor Brown defended the file-seizure and said Major General Roderic L. Hill, adjutant general of the State military department, had "acted properly" in moving the files to Sacramento.

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3-1-62

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To: SAC, San Diego

From: Director, FBI

**SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)**

Reurlet 2-26-62, a copy of which is enclosed for the information of Los Angeles, concerning the recent public political controversy involving the subversive files of the San Diego Research Library.

California Attorney General Mosk visited the Bureau on 2-19-62 at which time he tried to turn the files of this library over to the Bureau. Mosk was informed that these files were of absolutely no value whatsoever to the FBI and we, of course, would have no interest in accepting them. Mosk indicated his appreciation of our consideration and stated he would so notify his California office. In view of the fact that the controversy is still raging in California, I want to emphasize that, as Attorney General Mosk was told, we have no interest in these files, that this is strictly a state matter and any inquiry that you should receive concerning this situation should be answered with no comment.

2 - San Francisco

2 - Los Angeles - Enclosure

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FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

66-3182-43

San Diego

A \$250,000 suit demanding the return of a huge anti-Red file seized at a National Guard Armory here was filed yesterday in the San Diego Superior Court.

Named as defendants were Governor Edmund G. Brown, Major General Roderic L. Hill, State adjutant general; State Senator Hugo Fisher (Dem-San Diego) and Harold F. Gillett, chief of the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification.

The suit was brought in behalf of the San Diego Research Library, a non-profit corporation, and its president, retired Major General George W. Fisher:

It asked for return of the nine filing cases containing 100,000 names of suspected subversives plus \$60,000.

It the files are not returned then the Research Library and General Fisher are demanding \$250,000 from the defendants.

The suit also asked for the

return of documents locked in a one-ton National Guard safe which was used by the Research Library and which was seized along with the files last week at the armory.

Senator Fisher has charged that in at least one instance information was "leaked" from the secret files and used to "smear" him in a political campaign.

This charge was denied by General Fisher.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that Senator Fisher's administrative assistant, Lloyd R. Winburn, personally requested the California Highway Patrol to aid in the seizure of the files.

The request was made of Captain Rolland Gautsche, San Diego area patrol commander, according to Commissioner Bradford Critten. Men of the patrol.

Our Correspondent

General Van Dorman
Files

General Ralph H. Van Dorn
66-3182

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Pat Named In Suit on Red Files

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 23.—(UPI)—Governor Edmund G. Brown was named defendant in a \$250,000 suit filed today for a return of secret files seized from the National Guard Armory.

The Superior Court suit was filed by San Diego Research Library, which claims ownership of the files, and Retired National Guard Major General George W. Fisher, president of the library.

Named also as defendants were State Senator Hugo Fisher, Democrat, of San Diego; Major General Roderic L. Hill, state adjutant general; and Harold F. Gillett, chief of the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification.

The suit asked return of the files and \$60,000, or a total of \$250,000 if they are not returned. The court also was asked to prohibit State officials from examining the contents of the files.

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SAC, SAN DIEGO (66-1005)

SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Re airtel from San Diego to Bureau dated 2-17-62 and
San Diego letter dated 2-26-62.

For the additional information of the Bureau and
San Francisco, a newspaper article appearing in the
"San Diego Tribune" on 2-28-62 quotes State Senator
EDWIN J. REGAN, Democrat, Weaverville, California,
the Chairman of the California Senate Judiciary
Committee, to the effect that he will ask his Senate
Judiciary Committee to make an immediate investigation
into the intelligence files maintained by the SAN DIEGO
RESEARCH LIBRARY which were removed from the National
Guard Armory at San Diego by representatives of the
State Adjutant General. REGAN is quoted as stating
that he is sure that his Committee will act on his
request, preferably in time to report to the Legisla-
ture before it adjourns its March budget session.
REGAN reportedly stated that he thinks the Senate
Judiciary Committee would be very interested in the
history of these files and, if they belong to the State,
by what authority they were collected, at whose direc-
tion, and for what purpose.

The same newspaper article quotes Governor BROWN as
stating that the safe, containing material belonging
to the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY, which was also
removed by representatives of the Adjutant General,
while in a locked condition, was opened by representa-
tives of the State on 2-24-62 and was found to contain
"classified military information not of national
security dimensions". Governor BROWN is quoted as
stating that the safe contained "information on
Labor Unions and civilians".

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SD 66-1005

As the Bureau will note from the above, the political aspects of this case seem to be far-reaching and causing widespread comment in the San Diego area. As the Bureau has been previously advised, it is now apparent that the action on the part of the State was instigated by State Senator HUGO FISHER, Democrat, San Diego County. An editorial appeared in the "San Diego Union" on 3-1-62 criticizing FISHER very severely for instigating this action in removing the files of the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY and calling upon widespread publicity with regard to his motives. This editorial stated that the reasons behind the removal of these files would be given wide public disclosure during the trial of the suit which has been instituted for the recovery of the files and through the requested investigation by the State Senate Judiciary Committee.

Brown Approves Seizure of Files

Gov. Edmund G. Brown has defended the seizure of private anti-Communist files from the California National Guard armory in San Diego.

However, Brown conceded that he had allowed his chief liaison officer, Brig. Gen. Harold Hjelm, to use the controversial files for security checks. These remarks came yesterday at a press conference in Sunnyvale.

Nine filing cabinets and a one-ton safe, which reportedly contain intelligence data dating back to 1928 on the loyalty of from 150,000 to 200,000 individuals and organizations, were seized 10 days ago by Maj. Gen. Roderic Hill, State Adjutant General.

Brown told the new conference:

"I approve very much. I stand 100 per cent behind General Hill."

The San Diego Research Library, a private non-profit organization, compiled and used the files. The filing cabinets

and safe belong to the California National Guard.

Retired Maj. Gen. George Fisher of San Diego, president of the private research organization, has threatened to sue the state for \$250,000 if the files aren't returned. They have been sealed and turned over to the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information in Sacramento.

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6th Army Link

A New Mystery On Secret Files

By George Draper

A new mystery developed yesterday concerning the origin of the secret anti-subversive files seized by the State two weeks ago in a San Diego National Guard armory.

Major General George Fisher, a retired National Guard officer, originally claimed the files were given to the San Diego Research Library in 1952 by the widow of Major General Ralph Van Deman.

Yesterday, however, a 6th Army spokesman at the San Francisco Presidio said the voluminous files compiled by General Van Deman were turned over to 6th Army following the general's death in 1952.

SCREENED

"They were screened and centralized here and then shipped back to Washington, D. C.," the spokesman said.

After the controversial files in the San Diego armory were seized two weeks ago, General Fisher and the San Diego Research Library brought suit for their return.

The suit named Governor Edmund G. Brown, Major General Roderic Hill, chief of the California military department, Harold Gillett, chief of the bureau of criminal identification and investigation, and State Senator

Hugo Fisher (Dem - San Diego).

COURT ORDER

As an outgrowth of the \$250,000 suit, Governor Brown and the three other officials were served yesterday with San Diego superior court orders restraining them from examining or destroying the files.

Assistant Attorney General Arlo Smith said the State will fight to prevent the order from being made permanent at a court hearing in San Diego next Friday.

General Fisher was reported en route from Washington, D.C., yesterday and could not be reached for comment on the 6th Army statement regarding the files.

200,000 NAMES

His wife told The Chronicle she thought that perhaps only a part of the Van Deman file went to 6th Army and the rest went to the research library.

General Hill, who personally seized the nine filing cases containing reports on some 200,000 Californians, has contended the files were put together by persons on the payroll of the California Military Department.

"If the Van Deman files were picked up by 6th Army," said General Hill,

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477

"that would mean more than ever that the files we seized were the property of the State."

Meantime, Mayor George Christopher, campaigning in La Puente for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, asked last night that the files be turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation pending a court decision on their ownership.

He called the seizure "one of the most critical issues in the three-year history of the Brown Administration."

"If the files are state property," he said, "the public has the right to know under what circumstances they became available and accessible to any private sources."

"If the files are not state property, then an unwarranted seizure of private property has clearly been committed, and those responsible must be held to account."

2

Written Proof

Anti-Red Files Linked to State

By George Draper

State officials are in possession of two documents, The Chronicle learned yesterday, which prove that the "private" anti-subversive files seized in a San Diego National Guard armory are the property of the State.

One of the documents is a National Guard Reserve receipt for special trays to hold the thousands of filing cards containing information on 200,000 Californians.

The second is a National Guard Reserve property sheet which records the issuance of 10,000 filing cards to Major General George Fisher, retired National Guard officer, who is president of the controversial San Diego Research Library.

RECEIPT

The receipt for the filing trays was signed by Colonel Frank Forward, retired chief of a National Guard Reserve counter-intelligence unit in San Diego.

Colonel Forward is a vice president of San Diego Research Library.

The Research Library is suing Governor Edmund G. Brown and three other State officials for \$250,000 and demanding return of the secret files, which were seized two weeks ago by the California Military Department.

General Fisher expressed surprise when told about the property sheet indicating 10,000 filing cards were issued to him.

"Why me? I had nothing to do with the National Guard Reserve," he said.

He added that he had bought plenty of filing cards with his own money or Research Library money.

The general also insisted

the Research Library had bought the filing cabinets and card trays.

SPENDING

General Fisher said yesterday the Research Library spent \$40,000 in the last 10 years to maintain the files.

"Why would we spend \$40,000 keeping the damn things up if they belonged to the State?" he asked.

General Fisher said small private contributions helped defray the annual \$4000 cost of maintaining the files.

He denied that those who contributed were given access to the secret information locked in the filing cabinets.

Only representative of government agencies could obtain information from the files, the general said.

San Francisco

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clerk

66-3182-48

Is Somebody Watching You?

The disclosure yesterday by a Sixth Army spokesman at San Francisco that at least part of the voluminous files of the late General Van Deman were turned over to the Sixth Army after the general's death in 1952 adds an interesting aspect to a case that was bizarre enough to begin with.

The files, accepted by the Sixth Army and then sent on to Washington after screening, must have been considered of considerable importance for such trouble to have been taken.

But the files compiled by General Van Deman are supposedly concerned only with civilians, and especially those who the good general felt were acquiring one shade or another of that color which the Communists have made their own.

So what does that mean?

Does it mean that the Sixth Army—and so presumably the others in the country also—are getting set to protect themselves against a segment of the civilian population?

It is difficult to envision any other construction to be put upon the act. Furthermore, it must be admitted that it is up to any army anywhere to have a plan ready for any contingency whatever.

Nonetheless, it is something of a shock to discover that in the United States it is now felt to be necessary for such a batch of files, concerned mainly with the civilian population of the state, to be made a matter of serious study by the Army, to say nothing of the FBI which undoubtedly also is reviewing them.

It rather gives one that feeling of being watched—and not by just Big Brother, but instead by a whole host of gum shoes.

file

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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3-3-88
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TIMES - STAR
Alameda, California
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Managing Editor: SYBIL MORRILL
Publisher: ABE KOFMAN
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File

66-3182-50

Asked to Be Guard Spy, She Claims

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—A real estate woman says she was enlisted by an undercover group to work as an unofficial informer for the California National Guard Reserve.

Mrs. Helen Wysong said she was given a code name and promised training in the use of firearms—but was never given anything to do.

Mrs. Wysong, 50, said she became suspicious of the group and informed the FBI what she knew of its activities. She gave the details yesterday to the Los Angeles Times.

National Guard authorities in Sacramento said there was no authorization for such a network of informants.

Maj. Dana Robert Backus, commander of the 1st Battalion of the California National Guard Reserve, was identified by Mrs. Wysong as the organizer.

He told the Times he tried to build the network as "a group of individuals strategically placed in industry and elsewhere who might have access to certain bits of information which would aid the military in performing its work in case of disaster."

He said he undertook the project on his own, without consulting his superiors. He said the project was never completely organized.

Mrs. Wysong said she was invited to join the group by a minister who told her it was an anti-Communist group. She said she was told later that it was gathering information about the Minutemen, a militia-like volunteer group, and the Muslims, a radical Negro group.

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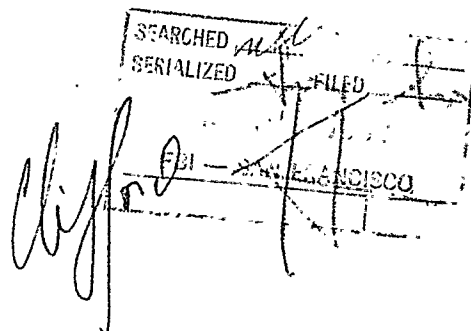
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OAKLAND TRIBUNE
Oakland, California

Date: 3-8-62

Edition: RED STREAK
City Editor: STEVE STILL
Assistant Publisher and
Editor: WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND
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66-3182-51

Private Spy Network in Cal. Guard?

Woman Tells of Being Recruited

An attempt to enlist civilians in a secret group to ferret out subversive activities and report them to the California National Guard Reserve was revealed last night.

Mrs. Helen Wysong, 52, a real estate saleswoman, told The Examiner by telephone from her Alhambra home:

"I was invited by a minister of the Church of Faith to attend a meeting in his home last Sept. 15 to set up a volunteer anti-Communist organization which would be on the lookout for subversives."

FIREARM USE

Those who attended were told "we were to have some training and would be taken into the (National Guard armory and taught to use firearms," Mrs. Wysong said. At the meeting, she related,

she met Major Dana Robert Backus, commander of the First Battalion of the California National Guard Reserve.

"He explained that they were organizing a citizens' committee of the National Guard Reserve," Mrs. Wysong continued. "I questioned the part of the National Guard in regard to such an organization."

Subsequently, according to Mrs. Wysong, she was never assigned to any specific work in the group and "I went no further with it."

ALERTS FBI

She brought the matter to the attention of the FBI, she said, "because I thought it was funny that the National Guard Reserve should be involved in an investigative project."

Mrs. Wysong, who is active in Republican political circles, said she did not know what, if any, action the FBI took in the matter.

Major Backus has not contacted her since the September meeting, she added.

"What happened to the group that was organized there I don't know," she said. "I felt that this was not the proper approach to the problem of Communism and subversive activities."

MAJOR EXPLAINS

Reached for comment, Major Backus acknowledged that he attempted to establish "an informants' network" but denied that it was

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66-3182-52

Cal. Guard Spy Net?

(Continued from Page 1)

planned as a civilian auxiliary or affiliate of the National Guard.

"The purpose of the network," he said, "was to have a body of individuals strategically placed in industry and elsewhere who might have access to certain bits of information that would assist the military in performing its work in case of disaster."

The major said he undertook to organize the group "solely on my own" and without consulting his National Guard superiors.

GENERAL QUOTED

On this point, Brigadier General B. J. Kitt, Deputy Adjutant General for the Army, said in Sacramento:

"There has never been any authorization to form such an organization as an informants' network."

The general said his office would be interested in making further inquiries if such an attempt has been made.

ENLIST FORMS

"We don't want the National Guard Reserve in that type of endeavor," Kitt declared.

Mrs. Wysong, who has been a member of the Los Angeles County Republican Committee since 1943, told The Examiner that she and others who were at the September meeting were given National Guard Reserve enlistment forms to fill out.

"I thought that the use of such forms by the military for organizing a citizens' group was strange, indeed," she said.

But Major Backus at first said enlistment forms were not given to candidates for

the "informants' network."

Then, he added:

"It was an official National Guard screening form," he said. "If the people were qualified, we were going to bring them into the military. But the project was never completed."

NOT ELIGIBLE

Later, he acknowledged that National Guard Reserve "enlistment blank" had been used but said those who filled them out "were not eligible for enlistment."

"I won't say why they were ineligible," he said.

Mrs. Wysong said she had asked Major Backus at the September meeting "why the National Guard didn't operate it directly instead of going through this civilian channel." She quoted him as replying that "the National Guard cannot do the things we are going to do. This is a statewide organization."

Victoria VI's Story

Woman Invited To Spot Reds For the Guard

From Our Correspondent

Los Angeles

A middle-aged real estate woman said yesterday she was recruited into an anti-Communist intelligence group set up as a civilian branch of the California National Guard Reserve.

Helen Wyson, 52, of Alhambra, long prominent in Republican Party work here, said that even before she was sworn in secretly as "Victoria VI," her code name, she told the FBI all about the organization.

Top spokesmen for the National Guard in Sacramento immediately said there was no authorization for such an

organization. They said they would investigate Mrs. Wyson's story.

Mrs. Wyson, former head of the Republican Speaker's Bureau and now a member of the GOP County Central Committee, told of her enlistment as a counter-spy in an interview with the Los Angeles Times.

In the Speaker's Bureau work, she said, she became

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66-3182-53

Subversives: GOP Woman Reveals Role

From Page 1

acquainted with Dr. Robert Lord, pastor of the Alhambra Church of Faith. She said she sent speakers to meetings he had arranged.

GOOD AMERICAN

Last September, Mrs. Wysong said, she received a call from the minister.

"Helen," he asked "Are you a good American?"

Then, she said, Dr. Lord told her that he had a "very confidential matter to discuss" about setting up an "anti-Communist organization."

She accepted an invitation to attend a meeting at Dr. Lord's house, then told the FBI about it.

She said she was escorted alone to the den of the home and given a National Guard enlistment blank. She heard others enter and heard them escorted separately to other rooms.

"Then I was taken upstairs where a young woman was also waiting."

MET C. O.

It was there, she said, that she met Major Dana Robert Backus, commanding officer of the First Battalion of the California National Guard Reserve.

Backus told her, she reported, that "this was to be a state wide organization." She asked why the National Guard didn't set up the organization directly, instead of using civilians. He replied "because we're going to do things that the National Guard can't do."

'ON ALERT'

He told us," Mrs. Wysong said, "that we were to be on the alert for subversives and to report them."

"We were told that we were to have some training and were to be brought into the armory and taught how to use firearms."

The major told her she was not to talk to him if she met him on the street unless he "acknowledged" her.

"Operatives were to be known as Victoria I, II and so on," she said. "I was Victoria VI."

Major Backus denied that the National Guard Reserve had a spy network, but said

that he had personally attempted to build an "informants group." He would not say whether he had main-

tained any files of information they had supplied him.

He added that he acted within the regulations of the Reserve which authorized him to "prevent espionage and sabotage."

ON OWN

He declared he had not consulted his superiors, but had acted solely on his own.

He said he had approached individuals who were "strategically placed in industry and elsewhere who might have access to certain bits of information that would aid the military in performing its work in the case of disaster."

Dr. Lord referred callers to Major Backus, giving them the National Guard Reserve telephone number.

State Guard Investigating 'Private Spy'

Sacramento

The inspector general of the California National Guard was sent to Los Angeles yesterday to investigate reports that a major in the National Guard Reserve tried to set up a civilian branch for anti-Communist spying.

Colonel Robert L. Quick, the inspector general, will report on his findings to Major General Roderic L. Hill, chief of the California Military Department.

The National Guard Reserve officer, who allegedly tried to organize the private spy group, is Major Dana Robert Backus.

Backus, commander of the National Guard Reserve's First Battalion, was identified as leader of the group by Mrs. Helen Wysong, 52, a member of the Los Angeles Republican County Central Committee.

She said she was asked to join the civilian group last September and was given the code name "Victoria VI."

The group, she said, was given the impression it was part of the National Guard Reserve.

General Hill said he is awaiting a report from Colonel Quick before deciding what action to take regarding Major Backus.

"Sounds to me like this was a case of poor judgment on Backus' part," the general said.

The reserve was organized in 1950 to fill the vacuum created when the 40th National Guard Division left for the Korean war. The reserve now numbers about 700 members equipped with non-working Springfield rifles.

General Hill said he knew of no direct tie-in between the intelligence group organized by Major Backus and the San Diego National Guard Reserve group which maintained secret anti-Communist files.

Our Correspondent

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Probe of Guard Ordered

A general investigation of the 700-man California National Guard Reserve was ordered by State Adjutant General Roderic L. Hill yesterday.

He acted after Mrs. Helen Wysong of Alhambra revealed an attempt to enlist undercover civilians to dig out subversive activities for the Reserve.

It was the second time in recent weeks that the Reserve had been linked to undercover activities.

KEPT FILE OF REPORTS

It had been revealed previously that the Reserve's San Diego unit helped maintain files and a safe containing reports on alleged subversives.

The Reserve is composed of men too old or physically unfit for the regular National Guard.

Hill said the investigation, which will begin in southern California and work north, will be conducted by the Inspector General, Col. Robert L. Quick.

"I don't believe we have a similar situation in northern California, but we'll check," Hill said. "Any alleged anti-subversive spy network was without authorization."

NO INTELLIGENCE UNIT

The California National

Guard has no intelligence unit, but the Reserve had one from 1956 until Hill disbanded it at the end of last year. Hill said:

"The Reserve intelligence was supposed to screen people within the Reserve. I had misgivings about it when I came into office in 1961, and it was phased out."

Inspector General Quick will investigate Mrs. Wysong's disclosures that she was taken into an undercover group as part of a network of Reserve informants.

PLANNED NETWORK

She had said she met Maj. Robert Backus, commander of the Reserve's First Battalion, and that Backus told her the group was trying to form a Statewide network.

Backus denied the group was to be connected with the Reserve. He said he wanted to find individuals "strategically placed in industry and elsewhere, who might have access to certain bits of information which would aid the military in performing its work in case of disaster."

"It's a matter of poor judgment—something I could not condone," Hill said.

PROBE ON BACKUS

He added that the investigation will seek to determine if Backus was guilty of misconduct. If he is, he could be dismissed or court-martialed, Hill said.

"I just don't see how there can be any more of these cases," Hill declared.

Meanwhile, in Sacramento, Assemblyman Jack Schrade demanded an investigation into the seizure of subversive files from a San Diego armory.

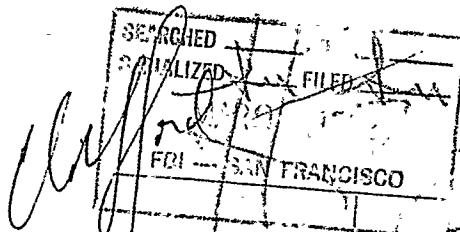
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66-3162-55

Guard Probe Asked Over Secret Files

Sacramento.

Assemblyman Don Mulford yesterday urged the Legislature to investigate the California National Guard and its Reserve over the controversial anti-subversive files discovered in San Diego.

The Oakland Republican said the Assembly's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee should find out why the files were kept in a National Guard armory and then seized by State officials.

An immediate investigation is needed, he said, because the Reserve wants to increase its budget by \$100,000 in the next year.

"Both the Guard and the Reserve are public agencies supported by taxpayers' money and it is essential that the Legislature be given a clearer picture of what their mission is and why they have become involved in such activities as these," Mulford said.

The files, containing the names of some 200,000 California residents, were removed from the San Diego Armory three weeks ago on the orders of Major General Roderic L. Hill, chief of the State Military Department, and taken to Sacramento.

A private organization, the San Diego Research Library, later said it owned the files and went to court in an effort to get them back.

The library last week obtained a temporary order restraining State officials from either examining or destroying the files, and sought at a hearing in San Diego yesterday to make the injunction permanent.

Superior Judge William A. Glen took the matter under submission.

Our Correspondent

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Chaffin

66-3162-56

File _____ Date _____
Class. _____ Case No. _____ Last Serial _____
☐ Pending ☐ Closed
Serial No. _____ Description of Serial _____ Date Charged _____

57 This serial has been transferred

to 100-0-94711.

3/28/62

KK

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DATE

3/27/86 BY SP6 BJA/mck

3-3-88

SP8 BTJ/col

Employee _____

RECHARGE

Date _____

To _____

From _____

March 8, 1962

*DeLoach
San Francisco files*

Honorable Stanley Mosk
Attorney General
State of California
San Francisco 2, California

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Assistant Director DeLoach has brought to my attention your letter to him of March 1, 1962, and has discussed his visit with you last month.

With regard to your offer to turn over certain files in your possession, as Mr. DeLoach previously indicated in his conversation with you on February 20, the FBI has no desire to take over these files. From our general knowledge of what the files contain, they are of no interest to us.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

- 1 - Los Angeles - Enclosure
- 1 - San Diego - Enclosure
- ① - San Francisco - Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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3-3-88 SP8 BTJ/cw

On 3/13/62 I discussed this completely with SA BRUSCH and instructed that neither he nor any Agents are to have anything to do with these files. FLP:rn

8

*ASAC
Brusch*

66 - 3182 - 59

State Must
Give Back
Those Files

It's an Order
Of the Court

The State was ordered by a judge yesterday to return to San Diego the controversial secret files recently removed from the National Guard Armory there and taken to Sacramento.

San Diego Superior Judge William A. Glenn issued the order on a petition by retired National Guard Maj. Gen. George W. Fisher. The files are to be placed in the custody of the San Diego Superior Court clerk, pending outcome of a suit by Fisher who claims they are the property of a group known as the San Diego Research Library.

Deputy State Attorney General Charles Barrett promptly retorted "the order can be appealed and we certainly will consider appealing it."

In Los Angeles, meanwhile, the Rev. Robert Lord of the Church of Faith came to the defense of Maj. Dana Robert Backus, commander of the National Guard Reserve's first battalion, accused of trying to set up a civilian "network" to spy on subversive activities.

In making the attempt to create such a group, Major Backus "did so under orders of high officials," Lord asserted. The clergyman denied he was "a spy for the Government." Mrs. Helen Wysock of Alhambra last week revealed the attempt which she said took place at a meeting in a minister's home.

San Human files

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*66-38
66-3182 -60*

Action by Judge

Release Ordered For 'Red' Files

San Diego

The secret files seized from the San Diego National Guard Armory must be returned here pending settlement of the legal tug-of-war over their ownership, a Superior Judge ruled yesterday.

Judge William A. Glenn ordered the files brought back here and placed in the custody of the County Clerk—but the Attorney General's office indicated it would appeal the order.

"I think the order can be appealed and we certainly will consider appealing it," said Deputy Attorney General Charles Barrett.

Judge Glenn's order was issued in connection with a lawsuit filed here by Major General George W. Fisher, who contends the files are the property of a group called the San Diego Research Library.

The files were seized at the behest of State Adjutant General Roderic Hill, who contends they are State property and that they had been misused by private parties who were given access to them.

Another controversy involving the National Guard in Southern California continued to boil, meanwhile, when a Los Angeles minister came to the defense of a reserve major accused of trying to recruit a "secret spy network."

The Rev. Dr. Robert Lord, who had been identified with

Major Dana Robert Backus' purported espionage organization, also declared flatly: "I am not a spy for the government."

The Church of Faith minister said he believed that if Major Backus has formed a spy network in the area, "he did so under orders of higher officials."

INQUIRY

Top National Guard officials have denied any knowledge of the spy network, and General Hill ordered a full investigation after its alleged existence came to light last week when an Alhambra woman told of attempts to recruit her as a "spy."

The Rev. Dr. Lord described Major Backus, commander of the First Battalion with headquarters in Los Angeles, as "a loyal, true American with an enviable war record in counter-intelligence work."

The minister said he had been visited frequently by Lieutenant Colonel George Rodin, adjutant of the First Brigade, during Rodin's apparent investigation of Backus.

The Rev. Dr. Lord said he learned later that Major Backus had used hidden equipment to record portions of some of these conversations, but insisted he had done so "in the interests of the First Brigade" and "by permission of his superiors."

Our Correspondent

*Re
Van Deman
files*

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66-3182-61

DIRECTOR, FBI

3-12-62

SAR, SAN DIEGO (66-1005)

SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Enlet from San Diego to Bureau dated 3-1-62 and copy of letter from Director to STANLEY MOSK, Attorney General, State of California, dated 3-8-62. It is noted that the Director's letter to MOSK is in reply to a letter of his dated 3-1-62 to Assistant Director C. D. DE LOACH in which he reneges his offer to the FBI to take over custody of the material in the files and records of the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY that were seized by the representatives of the State of California.

In this connection, it is noted that the Bureau was advised in my letter of 2-26-62 that a suit had been filed on 2-23-62 by the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY in Superior Court, San Diego, to recover the files from the State. In view of the suit that was filed by representatives of the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY, it would appear to me to be highly unethical, at least, for MOSK to offer to give these files to the FBI on a date subsequent to the date suit was instituted. It appears from this that MOSK, and possibly Governor BROWN, realize that these files are a political "hot potato" and are seeking any means to get rid of them. It is the feeling of this office that the Bureau's refusal to take over these files is a wise one and certainly one that the Bureau should continue to follow.

For the additional information of the Bureau, on 3-9-62 Superior Court Judge WILLIAM A. GLEN, San Diego County, had a hearing with regard to the suit instituted by the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY to recover the files. He stated that he would defer his opinion as to whether he will name a receiver to take charge of these files, pending the outcome of the suit for damages in connection

2 - Bureau - AIR MAIL

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TEB:joe

(3)

- San Francisco (T-1)

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with the seizure of the files, until some time during the week of 3-12-68.

The Bureau will continue to be advised of developments in this matter.

*Re: Van Heman
files*

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER
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FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

HRC

66-3182-63

Resigns Under Pressure

State Guard 'Spy' Hunter Quits

By SYDNEY KOSSEN
Examiner Political Editor

SACRAMENTO, March 15.—Major Dana R. Backus, who tried to establish an anti-Communist spy network in Los Angeles, has resigned under pressure from the California National Guard Reserve, the Governor's office disclosed Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Roderic L. Hill, chief of the Guard, found that Backus had enlisted civilians in a secret anti-subversive movement as part of his official National Guard duties.

This confirmed the initial disclosure to The Examiner on March 7 by Mrs. Helen Wysong, 52, well known Alameda Republican. Mrs. Wysong, a real estate saleswoman, had attended a meeting in the home of a minister of the Church of the Faith where she met the major and heard "we were to have some training" in the use of firearms at the Guard Armory.

Backus, a battalion commander, quit immediately after General Hill started to investigate the case on orders of Governor Edmund G. Brown.

The general's report said Backus acknowledged arranging the meeting which Mrs. Wysong attended on Sept. 15.

She said she didn't know what happened to the group which was organized that night.

"MINUTEMEN" TIE

Mrs. Wysong did not enlist because "I felt that this was not the proper approach to the problem of Communism

and subversive activities."

General Hill said Backus also had participated in an automatic weapon drill of the Minutemen, a self-appointed Communist-hunting guerrilla movement.

Backus also arranged for one of the Minutemen to address a February meeting of his battalion.

The entire case was investigated by Col. Robert Quick, inspector general of the California Military Department.

"Colonel Quick believes, and I concur, that Major Backus showed questionable judgment in these activities," General Hill said.

"WORK FOR FBI"

"There is no organized counter-intelligence or espionage unit in the California National Guard Reserve and there should be none.

"This is properly the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

The adjutant general told the Governor that Backus' attempt to set up a spy network as part of the reserve infantry battalion "was not in direct violation of law, but was clearly beyond the limits of his authority as an officer of the California National Guard Reserve.

PROBE TO CONTINUE

On Colonel Quick's recommendation, General Hill said he accepted Backus' resignation "without prejudice"—a military legal phrase mean-

ing that if he ever rejoins this won't be held against him.

The colonel will continue his investigation and submit a final report "at the earliest possible time," the general said.

General Hill also is embroiled in the case of the

secret anti-subversive activity files which he seized from the National Guard Armory in San Diego. The files allegedly are owned by private individuals.

DIRECTOR, FBI

3-19-62

SAC, SAN DIEGO (66-1005)

SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Relet from San Diego to Bureau 3-14-62.

For the information of the Bureau, on 3-16-62 California Attorney General STANLEY MOSK filed an appeal in the State Supreme Court in San Francisco against the order of the Superior Court in San Diego County that the files seized by representatives of the State of California should be returned to the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY by 3-19-62. The State Supreme Court stated that the appeal would be sent to the 4th District Court of Appeals of California for consideration. On the same date, the 4th District Court of Appeals agreed to issue an order on Monday, 3-19-62, extending until at least 4-3-62 the time in which the files should be returned to the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY. The 4th District Court of Appeals said this order would direct the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY and its President, General GEORGE W. FISHER, (Ret.), to show cause at 10:00 a.m. 4-3-62 why the order instructing the return of the files should not be stayed, pending hearing of the appeal.

The Bureau will be kept advised of the developments in this matter.

2 - Bureau - AIR MAIL
① - San Francisco (Info.)
1 - SD
TEB:jec
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/18/86 BY SP6 Bpk/ude

3-3-88 SP8 BTJ/csl

66-3182-64

DIRECTOR, FBI

3-14-62

SAC, SAN DIEGO (66-1005)

SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Relet from San Diego to Bureau 3-12-62.

For the information of the Bureau, on the afternoon of 3-12-62 Superior Court Judge WILLIAM A. GLEN, San Diego County, San Diego, issued an order impounding the files of the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY, which had been seized by representatives of the State of California, and instructing that these files be turned over to the Clerk of the Superior Court, San Diego County, on or before 3-19-62 until their ownership is determined. Named in the impounding order, all of whom are defendants in the lawsuit filed on this matter, are Governor BROWN, Major General RODERIC L. HILL, the State Adjutant General, and HAROLD F. GILLETT, Chief of the State Bureau of Investigation and Identification, Sacramento, who presently has custody of these files.

Judge GLEN'S order states that unless the files are delivered to his Clerk on or before 3-19-62, the Sheriff of San Diego County is to take the files into his possession and return them to the Clerk.

Newspaper reports since the Judge's order indicate that the Chief Assistant Attorney General of the State of California has indicated that the State would appeal this order to the 4th District Court of Appeals in San Diego on the basis that the Superior Court in San Diego lacks jurisdiction and because the State was not a defendant.

The Bureau will be kept informed on this situation.

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DATE 4/8/86 BY SP8 BTJ/CO

- 2 - Bureau - AIR MAIL
① - San Francisco (Info.)
1 - SD
TEB:jec
(4)
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SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 16 1962	
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

Chapman

65

Self-Styled Guard Spy Chief Quits

SACRAMENTO — (AP) — The resignation of Maj. Dana R. Backus, a California National Guard reserve officer who tried to organize an anti-subversive spy ring, has been announced by State Adjutant General Roderic Hill.

Gen. Hill said yesterday that Backus resigned without prejudice, but an investigation of the unauthorized counter-intelligence or espionage activity will continue.

The investigation was ordered after Mrs. Helen Wysong of Alhambra said she had been sworn into a spy group at a meeting arranged by Backus.

MEETING TOLD

Hill, in a report to Gov. Brown, said he was approached by Backus last Sept. 25 at a drill of the 40th Armored Division in Los Angeles.

"He said he had participated in a meeting of the so-called 'Minutemen' and had seen and handled automatic weapons which were in the possession of the Minutemen," Hill said.

The general said he referred the matter to the FBI and to George Brereton, chief of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation of the State Justice Department.

ASKED TO REPORT

"It is my understanding that the FBI investigated and that Mr. Brereton discussed this with Major Backus and that Major Backus was asked to report from time to time on other activities of the Minutemen with whom he was in touch," Hill said.

Hill said Backus told Col. Robert L. Quick, state inspector general, who is handling the probe, that he meeting Wysong was in connection with his activities for

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DATE 3/27/90 BY SP6 BJK/CL

3-3-88 SP8 BTJ/CL
OAKLAND TRIBUNE
Oakland, California
Date: 3/16/62

Edition: REDSTREAK
City Editor: STEVE STILL
Assistant Publisher and
Editor: WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND
Case:

Classification:

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 19 1962	
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

66-3182-66

High-Level Furor Wracks Guard On Subversives

SACRAMENTO, March 21, (UPI)—California's National Guard is embroiled today in a high-level furor over an elaborate system for identifying and keeping track of subversives in the state.

Not only is the Guard being criticized, but it is the Guard's top man doing the criticizing.

Maj. Gen. Roderic Hill, who said he had not known of the alleged spying activities in the lower echelons, started the furor when he seized secret files housed in a San Diego armory Feb. 13.

THEN HE said a guardsman was trying to create a secret spy system aimed at tracking down Communists.

"This sort of thing—the spying of citizens on citizens—is repugnant to me," he said after promising to stop it.

Hill has full support from Gov. Brown, who does not believe the guard should be investigating Communism.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the State Department of Justice and other law enforcement organizations are the ones to deal with such matters," he said.

The files are reported to contain 200,000 names collected during a 10-year hunt for subversives.

HILL HAD barely returned to Sacramento with

the files when Democratic state Sen. Hugo Fisher of San Diego charged that his Republican opponent in 1958, Fred H. Kraft, waved a document in front of an audience and said it contained information about Fisher from a National Guard counter-intelligence file. Kraft has denied the charge.

Ostensibly, the files belonged to a nonprofit organization called the San Diego Research Library. On the library's board of directors are a retired guard general, George W. Fisher, and a retired colonel from the guard reserve, Frank G. Forward.

Fisher has filed suit for recovery of the files, but the state contends it owns them.

Another instance of what Hill calls "snooping" came to light March 7 in Alhambra, where Mrs. Helen Wysong, a real estate operator, said she had been asked to join a network of secret informants.

LATER, MAJ. Dana Robert Backus of the guard admitted trying to form the network. Still later he resigned.

Asked if any other guardsmen were hunting subversives, Guard Commander Hill said he did not believe so. "But you can bet that I'm going to find out," he added.

*Re Van
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files
Hill*

3-3-88 SP8BTJ/COL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/27/86 BY SP8 BTJ/COL

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS-CALL
BULLETIN
San Francisco, California
Date: 3-21-62

Edition: HOME
Editor: CHARLES H. SCHNEIDER
General Manager: WELLS SMITH
Case:

Classification:

SEARCHED ☒	INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒	FILED ☒
MAR 22 1962	
FBI — SAN FRANCISCO	

66 - 3182.67

San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

Charles de Young Thieriot, Editor and Publisher
George T. Cameron, Publisher 1925 to 1955
Founded 1865 by Charles and M. H. de Young

PAGE 38 Monday, March 26, 1962

Use of Private Files Disturbing

IT IS THE BUSINESS of the courts to determine whether the State of California or a private group owns the files of the San Diego Research Library, which have been seized by order of the State Adjutant General; but it is the business of citizens to consider whether the use of these files has been wise and should be continued.

We find their use regrettable and disturbing and far too much in the pattern of the Communist tyranny with which the files are supposed to be concerned.

The San Diego Research Library is said to contain the dossiers of 200,000 Californians suspected of belonging to Communist or Communist-front organizations. They have been collected over the years since 1928 by sundry retired military officers, by units of the National Guard in San Diego, and by civilian zealots. The evidence is clear that several California Governors have customarily checked these dossiers before making administrative and judicial appointments. This is the custom which gives rise to our concern.

IF THE FILES are an accumulation of raw, unevaluated snippets of information belonging to private individuals, we have the intolerable situation in which an individual might be disqualified by the faulty judgment, not to say whim or bias, of intelligence-gatherers responsible to no one but themselves. The potentiality here for blackmail, above and beyond mere error and stupidity, is obvious.

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files*

3-3-88 SP8BTJ/CAL

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DATE 3/27/86 BY SP-6 BJA/bcd

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
San Francisco, California
Date: 3-26-62

Edition: FINAL HOME
City Editor: ABE MELLINKOFF
Publisher: CHARLES de YOUNG
THIERIOT

Author:
Case:

Classification:

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1962	
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

Cliff

66-3182-68

Senator Hugo Fisher of San Diego cited the use by a political opponent of the Research Library's file on him; it revealed Fisher to be a member of the American Civil Liberties Union; his opponent preposterously charged, while waving the file before a crowd, that this was a listed Communist organization.

EVEN IF the Research Library's files should be found to belong to the State, through the fact that National Guard Reserves helped work them up, we would question their use. This kind of information needs to be gathered and screened by experts of the FBI or other trained evaluators, not amateurs in an armory.

DIRECTOR, FBI

3-29-62

SAC, SAN DIEGO (66-1005)

SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Relet from San Diego to Bureau 3-19-62.

For the information of the Bureau, the "San Diego Union" newspaper of 3-28-62 carried a story with a Sacramento dateline setting forth that the resolution introduced into the California State Legislature asking that the Legislature investigate the seizure of the files of the SAN DIEGO RESEARCH LIBRARY was side-tracked on 3-27-62 by the State Assembly Rules Committee. The resolution was sent to the "Joint Interim Committee on Legislative Organization" by the Democratic-controlled Rules Committee. Assemblyman JACK SCHRADE (Republican - El Cajon), author of the resolution, is quoted in the newspaper story as stating that the action was a "political move" to kill his resolution.

This matter will be followed by the San Diego Division and the Bureau will be kept informed of developments.

2 - Bureau - AIR MAIL
1 - San Francisco (Info.)
1 - San Diego
TEB:jec
(4)

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DATE 4/18/86 BY SP6-B. [signature]
3-3-88 SP8 BT/AT

66-3182-69

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

High Court To Rule on 'Red' Files

Attorney General Stanley Mosk went to the State Supreme Court yesterday in his fight to block the return to San Diego of the controversial anti-Communist files seized at a National Guard armory there last February.

Mosk asked the high court to reverse a Superior Court order for the files to be impounded by the San Diego County Clerk pending trial of a suit over the ownership.

The files, said to contain names of persons suspected of subversive activities, were maintained in an office at the armory by a private organization called the San Diego Research Library. They were taken to Sacramento after their seizure by the State.

The Research Library is suing for return of the files and \$266,000 damages.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pg. 24

S.F. Chronicle

San Francisco, Calif.

Date: 6-12-62
Edition: Final Home
Author:
Editor: Charles deYoung
Title: Thieriot

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

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DATE 3/27/80 BY SP6 B. J. B. / J. B.

3-3-88 SP8 BTJ/cw

Clifford RB

66-318-70

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JUN 14 1962
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO

RB

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

State Sues to Keep Secret Armory Files

The State Attorney General's office yesterday asked the California Supreme Court to set aside an order which would require the return of files concerning alleged subversives confiscated from a National Guard armory in San Diego.

The San Diego Research Library, claiming ownership of the files, has filed a \$250,000 damage suit against Governor Edmund G. Brown and Maj. Gen. Roderick L. Hill, State Adjutant General. The files were seized by the State and transferred to Sacramento.

The private library was compiled by retired Maj. Gen. George W. Fisher and Col. Frank G. Forward as private citizens as a service to the State, according to their suit.

Superior Court Judge William A. Glenn of San Diego

has ordered the State to return the files to the clerk of the court pending outcome of the suit.

In asking that Judge Glenn's order be set aside, the Attorney General's office said it was "unreasonable to expect important State officers to risk being held in contempt of court if they failed to obey the San Diego court's order."

The Attorney General's office said the court should determine whether the files belong to the State or to the library before the officials risk contempt proceedings.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pg. 48

S.F. Examiner

San Francisco, Calif.

Date: 6-12-62
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: Edmund J. Dooley
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/27/86 BY SP8 BTJ/csl

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 13 1962
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO

66-3182-71

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Subversion Secret Files Returned

Sacramento

The secret antisubversive files of the San Diego Research Library were en route back to San Diego yesterday.

The files—seized by the State February 13 when it discovered they were being housed in a National Guard armory—were ordered returned by San Diego Superior Judge William A. Glen.

Major General George Fisher (USAR-Ret.), president of the San Diego Research Library, an anti-Communist organization, reported the files were intact.

Following the seizure, the files were held here in the headquarters of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.

Fisher, Deputy Attorney General Willard Shank, and Colonel Robert L. Quick, inspector general of the National Guard, met Monday afternoon to go through the seized files and separate National Guard materials from those of the Research Library.

Shank said later that there was "nothing startling in the files" of the San Diego Research Library.

"There were a lot of newspaper clippings and things like that," Shank said.

Fisher said the \$260,000 suit filed by the San Diego Research Library following the files' seizure will be dropped.

The suit was against Governor Edmund G. Brown, State Adjutant General Roderic Hill, State Senator Hugo Fisher of San Diego, and Harold Gillett, former chief of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.

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DATE 3/27/86 BY SP6-Bja/ade
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FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pg. 19

S.F. Chronicle

San Francisco, Calif.

Date: 7-25-62
Editor: Final Home
Author:
Editor: Charles deYoung
Title: Thieriot

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

66-382-72

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Guard File Damage Suit Dismissed

SAN DIEGO, July 26. — (UPI)—The \$250,000 damage suit filed by the San Diego Research Library against Governor Brown and other State officials was settled Thursday.

Attorney Crandall Condra, representing the library, and deputy Attorney General Willard Shank signed papers dismissing the suit.

The action followed division of the files by the State and the library, with the State retaining those papers that referred to the National Guard while the library kept its voluminous files of so-called subversive activities in the San Diego area.

The suit was filed after the State had seized the files from the San Diego National Guard Armory on Feb. 13. Both the State and the library claimed ownership of the material.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 6

S.F. Examiner

San Francisco, Calif.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/27/80 BY SP6-Bje/pdd
3-3-88 SP8BTJ/L

Date: 7-27-62

Editor: Final

Author:

Editor Edmund J. Dooley

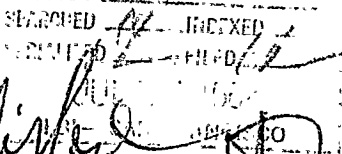
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Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (66-3568)

DATE: 11/27/62

FROM : SA FRANK W. MITCHELL

SUBJECT: HUGO FISCHER
SAN DIEGO, CALIF. PERSONAL ATTENTION: SAC PRICE

While at the recent Law Enforcement Conference at Sacramento, CHARLES "PAT" CASEY, Assistant Director of Corrections, for the State of California and son-in-law of PAT BROWN and a long-time personal friend of the writer, advised on a confidential basis of the following information.

He stated that he recently was at a gathering in San Diego and present at this gathering was the defeated candidate for State Senator HUGO FISCHER. CASEY advised that FISCHER was very outspoken in his criticism of the Bureau and referred to the Bureau as using Gestapo tactics and other derogatory terms. CASEY stated that he personally refuted these allegations concerning the Bureau to FISCHER, but that obviously FISCHER was an enemy of the FBI and he believed that this information should be passed on us for our future guidance.

FWM:ay,

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3-3-88 SP8 BTJ/csl

To all Bureau + SD

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FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

66-3182-74

Director, FBI

12/6/62

SAC, San Francisco

STATE SENATOR HUGO FISHER
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

SA FRANK W. MITCHELL has advised that at a recent law enforcement conference held at Sacramento, California, CHARLES "PAT" CASEY, Assistant Director of Corrections, State of California, who is a son-in-law of California Governor EDMUND G. BROWN and a long-time personal friend of SA MITCHELL, advised of the following on a confidential basis:

He stated that he recently was at a gathering in San Diego and present at this gathering was State Senator HUGO FISHER who was recently defeated for re-election. CASEY advised that FISHER was very outspoken in his criticism of the Bureau and referred to the Bureau as using Gestapo tactics and other derogatory terms. CASEY stated that he personally refuted these allegations concerning the Bureau to FISHER but that, obviously, FISHER was an enemy of the FBI and he believed that this information should be passed on to us for future guidance.

For the information of the Bureau, FISHER was involved with the San Diego Research Library files which were seized by the State of California in February of this year.

2-Bureau
1-San Diego (Info.)
1-SF
PFO:lcm
(4)

#259,494
SP8BIS/CAL 3-3-88
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DATE 3/23/86 BY SP6 BJA/mk**

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Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

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